

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MARR, TU, US

SUBJECT: ACTING SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH TURKISH MFA
SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG MET WITH ACTING
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER FOR THIRTY MINUTES AUG. 8 PRIOR
LUNCHEON IN HONOR ELEKDAG GIVEN BY ACTING SECRETARY.
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO LEGISLA-
TION AND IMPORTANCE OF EARLY REACTIVATION OF U.S. INSTAL-
LATIONS IN TURKEY. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN MEETING WERE
TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL, UNDER SECRETARY FOR SECURITY
ASSISTANCE BENSON, AND COUNSELOR NIMETZ. END SUMMARY
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2. ELEKDAG SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND ENTIRE
GOT GREATLY APPRECIATED EFFORTS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER
AND ENTIRE ADMINISTRATION TO SECURE FAVORABLE CONGRES-
SIONAL ACTION TO LIFT TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO.

3. ELEKDAG WENT ON TO EXPLAIN ALONG LINES HE HAD PRE-

VIOUSLY USED WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ AUG. 7 AND 8 (STATE 199601) THAT TURKISH MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION HAD BEEN CONFUSED, PARTICULARLY BY HOUSE BILL, AND THUS OVERALL IMPRESSION WAS SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER EMBARGO

WOULD BE SUSPENDED RATHER THAN LIFTED. FORMER PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND OTHER OPPOSITION LEADERS HAD CRITICIZED ECEVIT. THE GOT THEREFORE THOUGHT THAT LANGUAGE OF THE BILL WHICH EMERGED FROM CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE IMPROVED SO THAT THE EMBARGO WAS CLEARLY REPEALED. THE GOT WANTED TO PROMPTLY REESTABLISH FRESH AND CLOSE TIES WITH U.S. ELEKDAG SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME HOUSE CONFEREES PREFERRED THE SENATE APPROACH TO REPEAL AND THERE THUS SEEMED SOME HOPE THAT MAJOR TURKISH CONCERNS COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. ELEKDAG STRESSED THAT THE TURKS WANTED AN OBJECTIVE, NOT A PRO-TURKISH, TEXT WHICH WOULD MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF AREA, RATHER THAN RENDERING THEM MORE DIFFICULT, OR GIVE A PRETEXT TO THOSE WHO WANTED TO DRAG THEIR FEET OR DELAY RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

4. ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT ADMINISTRATION ALSO WANTED POSITIVE LANGUAGE AND AN UNEQUIVOCAL REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW, EVEN THE HOUSE VERSION WOULD RESULT IN THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO THROUGH PRESIDENTIAL ACTION. WE WERE VERY HOPEFUL THAT SENATE VERSION
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WOULD, TO LARGE EXTENT, BE ADOPTED. IN ANY EVENT, WE HOPED GOT WOULD SEE THE RESULT AS EXTREMELY POSITIVE AND ONE THAT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED SIX MONTHS AGO. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED FULL TURKISH GOVERNMENT COOPERATION. WITHOUT A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ECEVIT AND HIS GOVERNMENT AND ACTIONS BY TURKISH SIDE OVER LAST FEW MONTHS, THE CONGRESSIONAL RESULT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT. CHRISTOPHER ALSO STRESSED THAT THE INTENSE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT WAS CRUCIAL, AS WAS THE VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAD MADE WHEN HE CAME TO THE NATO SUMMIT. NIMETZ NOTED THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANOTHER CONTENTIOUS VOTE IN EITHER HOUSE AND WERE CONFIDENT THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED.

5. ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT EARLIER IN MORNING WHILE AT WHITE HOUSE FOR CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, BOTH HIRC CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER BROOMFIELD HAD SAID THEY HAD BEEN DISTURBED TO READ PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEMS IN GETTING U.S. INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY REOPENED. ACTING SECRETARY SAID HE HAD ASSURED THEM THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR

SUCH REPORTS, SINCE THE GOT HAD ASSURED US THAT THE BASES COULD REOPEN WHEN THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. IN ORDER THAT WE COULD FURTHER NIP SUCH REPORTS IN THE BUD, HE ASKED ELEKDAG WHAT WE COULD SAY ABOUT THIS MATTER.

6. ELEKDAG RESPONDED THAT WE SHOULD SAY THAT THE INSTALLATIONS WILL BE REOPENED. IT IS, HOWEVER, NECESSARY TO HAVE A LEGAL BASIS FOR THEIR OPERATION. IT WAS, THEREFORE, IMPORTANT TO START AND FINISH NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAKE SINOP AND DIYARBAKIR AGAIN OPERATIONAL. TO ASSIST THAT PROCESS, THE GOT COULD REVISE THE PRESENT PROVISIONAL STATUS BY GOVERNMENT DECREE TO ALLOW PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER MATERIALS
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TO BE MOVED INTO TURKEY. ELEKDAG STRESSED THAT A CLEAR, UNEQUIVOCAL REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO WOULD ALLOW THE GOT TO RALLY TURKISH PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A QUICK AND FULL RESTORATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. BASED ON MUTUALITY OF INTEREST. HE THOUGHT THAT THE GOT IN THE EVENT OF A CLEAR REPEAL COULD EVEN BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE TURKISH LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. THE GOT RECOGNIZED THAT THE INSTALLATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO NATO, US, AND TURKISH INTERESTS AND ALSO MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD BALANCE THROUGH THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO SALT, ETC. ELEKDAG SAID THAT WHILE STUDIES WERE NOT YET COMPLETED, THE GOT MIGHT SUGGEST THAT KARABURUN AND BELBASI, WHICH HAD LITTLE OR NO MILITARY VALUE, COULD BE HANDLED IN A MORE LIBERAL MANNER.

7. ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT ELEKDAG'S STATEMENTS WERE REASSURING AND HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE TO INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN AS WELL. WE WANTED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE GOT TO ASSURE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE REOPENING. IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE REOPENING NOT BE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS. ELEKDAG SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CONDITIONS, BUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A LEGAL BASIS. THE GOT WAS PREPARED TO START AND FINISH NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THERE WAS NO RELUCTANCE TO MAKE THE BASES OPERATIONAL.

8. CHRISTOPHER SAID HE ACCEPTED THE ASSURANCES WHICH ELEKDAG NOTED HE HAD CONVEYED ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE CLEAR TO THE PRESS THAT WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS WITH THE BASES. HE ALSO SUGGESTED TO ELEKDAG THAT IN TALKING WITH THE PRESS, HE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS RATHER THAN
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TO STRESS TURKISH CONCERN ABOUT THE FORM OF THE EMBARGO
REPEAL LEGISLATION.

9. BEFORE BREAKING FOR LUNCH ELEKDAG STRESSED THAT

ECEVIT CONTINUED TO WANT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS
AND REMAINED ANXIOUS TO REACH A SPEEDY SOLUTION OF THAT
PROBLEM. VANCE

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